

Ha Shavuah B' Sha'arey Israel

October 1 – October 8, 2009

13 Tishri – 20 Tishri 5770



Candle lighting time 7:01 pm
Friday October 2

Friday Evening Kabbalat Shabbat Services begin at 6:15 pm
Saturday morning Shabbat Services begin at 9:00 am

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## SHABBAT/SUKKOT

Annual: Leviticus 22:26 – 23:44 (Etz Hayim, p. 723)  
Maftir: Numbers 29:12 – 16 (Etz Hayim, p. 934)  
Haftarah: Zechariah 14:1 – 21 (Etz Hayim, p. 1253)



**We would like to extend our condolences ~**

To Hershene Goldman and her family on the passing of her mother, Jean Isaacson.

**We wish a Happy Birthday this week to:**

Paul Jahr, Larry Elowitz and Daniel Cohen

**Happy Anniversary this week to:**

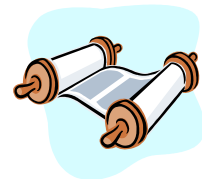
Viola & Stuart Schwartz

**This week we remember the Yahrzeit of:**

Matthews Barnett, Isaac Dreizin, Moses Elkon, Leah Shier Nirenstein, Fannie Estroff Rosen,  
Jennie Goldberg Weinman, Sam Wulwick, Sarah Torch

## Make your reservations NOW!!

*Simchat Torah Family Dinner*  
*Saturday - October 10 - 6:15pm*



**NOTE: We will be serving deli and must have your reservation  
no later than Noon on Tuesday, October 6.**

Adults - \$10, Children under 13 - \$7, Under 3 - Free  
Please call the CSI office 745-4571 or email [secretary@csimacon.org](mailto:secretary@csimacon.org)

## Special Congregation Meeting

at the Synagogue

**Sunday - October 25<sup>th</sup> - 4:00 P.M.**

Topic: Rabbi's Contract Renewal

### HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES 2009/5770

|                                                                                                                               |                                         |                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Erev Sukkot</b><br><b>Erev Sukkot</b><br>Friday evening, October 2<br><i>Supper in the Sukkah</i>                          | <b>Candle lighting</b>                  | <b>7:01 p.m.</b><br><br>6:15 p.m.              |
| <b>Sukkot I</b><br>Saturday morning, October 3                                                                                | <b>Candle lighting</b>                  | <b>7:54 p.m.</b><br>9:00 a.m.                  |
| <b>Sukkot II</b><br>Sunday morning, October 4                                                                                 |                                         | 9:00 a.m.                                      |
| <b>Hoshanah Rabbah</b><br>Friday evening, October 9                                                                           | <b>Candle lighting</b>                  | <b>6:52 p.m.</b><br>6:15 p.m.                  |
| <b>Shemini Atzeret/Yizkor</b><br>Saturday morning, October 10                                                                 |                                         | 9:00 a.m.                                      |
| <b>Simchat Torah</b><br>Saturday evening, October 10<br>Family Night Dinner and Ma'ariv Service<br>Sunday morning, October 11 | <b>Candle lighting Saturday evening</b> | <b>7:45 p.m.</b><br>6:15 p.m.<br><br>9:00 a.m. |

*Please be sure to pick up your CSI 2009-2010 Directory!  
They are in the foyer facing the courtyard.*

### **CSI 5770 Campaign**

**There are still some members who have not made a commitment to the CSI Campaign. This synagogue belongs to all of us and we encourage everyone to be a part of this campaign in whatever way you are able**

# ***The CSI Sukkah Hop***

***Warner Robins: Tuesday, October 6 – 6:00 PM***

***Home of Lynn & Jay Freedman in Bonaire***

Food All Kosher: Hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken, veggie-burgers, salmon, cole-slaw, salads and drinks. If you really want to bring something, please call Lynn (923-0765) to coordinate drinks, fruit salad, veggie salad, etc. (Parve contents only, please!) We'll have plenty of food available, so please bring yourselves...and YES, we will be enjoying SLIVOVITZ to celebrate life. Please simply come and enjoy. ~ Lynn & Jay Freedman

***Macon – Wednesday, October 7 – 6:30 PM***

***Home of Anne & Scott Bayme***

Dairy Covered Dish Dinner and Dessert  
RSVP to Anne 474-0063 or [abayme5@gmail.com](mailto:abayme5@gmail.com)

***Milledgeville – Thursday, October 8 – 6:30 PM***

***Home of Vickie Brown***

RSVP to Vickie: 478-968-7094 or [vickiebrown@windstream.net](mailto:vickiebrown@windstream.net)

The Jewish Federation of Macon and Middle Georgia is sponsoring an educational program on Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 P.M. at the Cox Capital Theater.

**We will have pizza and beer followed by special speaker Micah Halpern. Mr. Halpern is an expert on terrorism and has insights you have not thought about. He will speak on “Making Sense of the Muddy Middle East.” More information will follow in a separate flyer.**

**We hope you can attend. You can make a reservation with David Frolich or Harriette Carter.**

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**Please complete the End of Life Questionnaire  
and return them to the CSI office. Thank you!**  
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You may now pay your Synagogue bill with a credit card and there will be a section on your statement for you to submit your credit card information or you may call it in to the CSI office.

*Don't forget the CSI Gift Shop for all your gift needs.*

Weddings - Housewarming Gifts

Birthdays - Anniversaries - B'nai Mitzvahs

**20% Off on all  
Rosh Hashanah Gift Items  
& Rosh Hashanah Toys  
thru the Holidays**



*Free gift wrapping and local delivery.*

Call Terri or Deborah to help you with your shopping needs

## **Sukkot**

Making Homelessness Our Home

This week's commentary is by *Rabbi Oren J. Hayon, associate rabbi of Temple Emanu-El in Dallas, Texas.*

Like a giant tent spread atop three tall pillars that support it and give it shape, the Jewish year is held up by the *Shalosh R'galim*, the "three pilgrimage festivals." Pesach commemorates the joy of liberation and freedom, Shavuot acknowledges the power of God's word revealed in Torah, and Sukkot reminds Israel of nights spent in fragile huts during its wilderness sojourn.

Pesach and Shavuot celebrate spiritual fulfillment, times when God anticipated Israel's needs and acted bountifully and graciously to fulfill them. We were granted political and national fulfillment on Pesach, when we were led out of the painful grip of slavery. Atop Sinai, we were given the wisdom of Torah, and we celebrate its spiritual and intellectual fulfillment on Shavuot. But Sukkot, in contrast, does not celebrate substantive fulfillment at all. Instead, it acknowledges the insecurity and uncertainty of desert nights spent in frail temporary shelters.

Stranger still is this fact: each of the pilgrimage festivals has an alternate name which alludes to its purpose and religious symbolism. Pesach is called *Z'man Cheiruteinu*, "the Time of Our Freedom." Shavuot is called *Z'man Matan Torateinu*, "the Time of our Receiving Torah." And the name that tradition ascribes to Sukkot is *Z'man Simchateinu*, "the Time of Our Joy."

Might not this be a better title for some other holiday? What, after all, is so joyous about the memories of being homeless and directionless in the desert? What did we have to celebrate when we had no home, no communal security or permanence, and no assurance that Israelite settlement

would endure beyond the elusive boundary of the Promised Land? Yet our tradition insists that we make sense of this strange paradox. The challenge of this festival is for us to find fulfillment not in spite of our historic homelessness, but in the homelessness itself.

On a Shabbat that falls during Sukkot, the Torah reading is supplemented by a reading from *M'gillat Kohelet*, the Book of Ecclesiastes. In it, the writer, Kohelet insists that to concentrate on one's wealth, possessions, and accomplishments is ultimately a vain and futile exercise (Ecclesiastes 2:11). But for Kohelet, acknowledging the meaninglessness of material possessions need not lead one to a life of monasticism or self-denial. Instead, he urges us to enjoy eating, drinking, and the sensory pleasures, and to pursue learning and wisdom (see Ecclesiastes 3:12–13, 8:15, 9:7–10).

During the rest of the year, we make practical choices about which people and things we will allow to surround us in everyday life. We think about the material value and aesthetic appeal of the furnishings in our homes and offices. We strategically consider the utilitarian value of relationships with other people. Who is most important and will help my career most? What will look most impressive and have the greatest impact on my friends and neighbors? How can I portray the best image of my status and security?

On Sukkot, we make these decisions differently. At this season, following the perspective of Ecclesiastes, we see through the vanity and shallowness of social cache. We look past material value and concentrate instead on authentic relationships. Though we eat our meals in straw huts, we do so in the presence of people we love. We also invite the *ushpizin*, “biblical ancestors,” whose spirit we invoke on this holiday as guests in our sukkot. The *ushpizin*, like ourselves, are wanderers, having meandered through time to join in our celebration. Their presence reminds us of the spiritual potential of a life spent wandering. Our ancestors' placelessness, strange though it seems, is precisely the thing that enabled them to build an eternal and ubiquitous Jewish nation.

As with all significant times in the Jewish calendar, our tradition reminds us of what it really means to be home. The wind blows through the thin walls of our sukkot, but we are consoled by the knowledge that true shelter comes from the nearness of those we love and the reassuring comfort of God. The psalmist writes:

O you who dwell in the shelter of the Most High  
and abide in the protection of Shaddai. . .  
He will cover you with His pinions;  
you will find refuge under His wings;  
His fidelity is an encircling shield. . . .  
Because you took the Eternal—my refuge,  
the Most High—as your haven,  
no harm will befall you,  
no disease touch your tent.  
(Psalm 91:1–10)

Sukkot's joy—the characteristic that merits its being called *Z'man Simchateinu*—derives from a paradoxical sense of being at home within homelessness, a feeling of being secure in God's presence even when we have nowhere else to call our own. Even without a home of our own, the Jewish people can feel secure, sheltered by each other within the nearness of the Divine.

The Bible calls Sukkot *Chag Ha-Asif*, the “Feast of Ingathering” (Exodus 23:16 and 34:22.) This title refers to the fall harvest at this season, when crops are collected gratefully from fruitful fields. But “ingathering” comes with another layer of meaning as well. It reminds us of the prophet Zechariah’s promise that the Messianic Era will see all of the world’s nations make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to acknowledge the reality of God: “All who survive of all those nations,” the prophet declares, “that came up against Jerusalem shall make a pilgrimage year by year to bow low to *Adonai* of Hosts and to observe the Feast of Booths” (Zechariah 14:16).

On Sukkot, Ecclesiastes urges us to pause from our single-minded efforts of consuming and producing and to concentrate instead on the enduring values of reverence and wisdom. Zechariah invites us to look forward to the “ingathering” of the company of nations and the promising possibility that all earth’s inhabitants can unite in the pursuit of peace. These Sukkot messages offer the soothing reminder that comfort and security can be found even in the frailest and most temporary of structures. Unlike what we build during the rest of the year, the sukkot that last barely a week can overflow with permanent, enduring meaning. The shelter we find under their rustling straw roofs is a most sacred harvest; it is, in the end, what makes this festival into a true *Z’man Simchateinu*.

**For other commentaries on this week’s Torah portion check out these sites:**

[Aish.com](http://Aish.com)

[ISJL Taste of Torah](http://ISJL.TasteofTorah)

[JTS](http://JTS)

[MyJewishLearning.com](http://MyJewishLearning.com)

[USCJ Torah Sparks](http://USCJ.TorahSparks)

**There are still two easy ways for you to help**

**Congregation Sha’arey Israel can make a little extra money...**

**1. visit [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) for your online searches. This won’t cost you anything but CSI makes a penny each time you search.**

every time you



CSI earns



**2. for all your online shopping needs go to [csimacon.org](http://csimacon.org) and click on our Amazon.com link.**

**Contact information:**

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- Ways & Means* - Scott Bayme - [scottbayme@kaybeeofmacon.com](mailto:scottbayme@kaybeeofmacon.com)

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Quick links:

- [CSI Macon Online](#)
- [United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism \(USCJ\)](#)
- [JTS Podcast - this week's Parsha](#)
- [Audio Siddur](#)
- [Jewish Telegraphic Agency \(JTA\)](#)
- [Israeli News Broadcast – in English](#)
- [The Jewish Ethicist](#)
- [Synagogue 3000](#)
- [Learn through USCJ online](#)
- [The William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum](#)
- [United Jewish Communities \(UJC\)](#)
- [American Jewish University](#)

For the children (or the young at heart):

- [Torah Portion Coloring Pages](#)
- [Babaganews Torah Parasha of the week movie](#)

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